

town-site and railroad station, naming the town Kindred after William S. Kindred, a Fargo real-estate pioneer. Kindred was incorporated in 1920 and became a city in 1949. Today, Kindred is a rapidly growing community bolstered by a variety of thriving businesses including, Cass County Electric Cooperative, Dakota Ag Cooperative, and Odegaard Aviation.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Kindred, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Kindred and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Kindred that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why the fine community of Kindred is deserving of our recognition.

Kindred has a proud past and a bright future.●

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAWSON, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 2, the residents of Dawson, ND, gathered to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Dawson is a small town in south central North Dakota with a population of approximately 75. Despite its small size, Dawson holds an important place in North Dakota's history. The Sibley Expedition helped begin the settlement of this area, but it was the railroad's expansion that was responsible for Dawson's birth. J. Dawson Thompson, along with Fredrick D. Hager and Robert E. Wallace established the city of Dawson in 1880. This town started with a windmill and a water tower and later developed into an important city. As a railroad center, it was responsible for welcoming early settlers.

As the first established city of Kidder County, Dawson has experienced many changes over the years. Today, Mayor Rand Loveness leads this great city. Known for its excellent hunting and fishing, Dawson attracts a wide variety of sportsmen. Although small in size, Dawson has found ways to touch the lives of many people. Dawson has served thousands of children and adults through Camp Grassick. This camp specializes in giving people with disabilities and special needs a wonderful summer camp experience. The Veterans Memorial Wall in Dawson is another example of how this town has given back to its community. This wall honors 1,010 veterans serving from the Crimean War to the gulf war.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Dawson, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Dawson and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering fron-

tier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Dawson that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Dawson has a proud past and a bright future.●

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LANKIN, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 8-10, the residents of Lankin, ND, celebrated their community's history and founding.

Lankin is a small town in the northeast part of North Dakota. Despite its small size, Lankin holds an important place in North Dakota's history. The site was originally named "Young" for G.W. Young, a Park River lawyer and former teacher. He established the post office on April 7, 1898, and John Matajeck became the first postmaster. The name was changed to Lankin on July 27, 1905, when John Lankin became postmaster and the townsite was established on the Soo Line Railroad. Lankin was officially incorporated as a village in 1908. Among the town's residents were Jack McDonald, a trumpet player with Philip Sousa's famous band and Herman Witasek, a member of Lankin's 1930 State Class C High School basketball champions, who is considered to be North Dakota's first professional player of the sport.

Today Lankin is a delightful community in which to live and work. Lankin is home to a number of businesses, including a grain elevator, post office, bank, restaurant and an American Legion Club. There is also an active volunteer fire department and EMS squad. The community hosted a variety of festivities during its centennial celebration. On Friday, it held an all-school reunion, banquet and dance. Saturday kicked off with a parade and that will be followed by a day of entertainment featuring games, music, a three-on-three basketball tournament and a fireworks display that evening. The weekend will close with a church service and picnic on Sunday.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Lankin, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Lankin and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering tradition spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Lankin that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why Lankin is deserving of our recognition.

Lankin has a proud past and a bright future.●

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MCCLUSKY, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th an-

niversary. On July 8-10, 2005, the residents of McClusky, ND, celebrated their community's history and founding.

The community of McClusky is located at the geographic center of North Dakota, approximately 65 miles north-east of the State capital, Bismarck, and 50 miles east of beautiful Lake Sakakawea, a manmade lake formed by the Garrison Dam on the Missouri River. Within 45 miles of 18 lakes, McClusky is home to some of the world's premier hunting and fishing.

Founded in 1905 as the result of railroad expansion into the area, McClusky became a bustling farming community. Farming was, and continues to be, the mainstay of McClusky. In fact, the community received its name from William Henderson McClusky, a local farmer responsible for the town's establishment. In addition to farming, however, at this time McClusky's 500 residents are also vital to the continued existence of numerous organizations and businesses, including 6 churches and a bed and breakfast.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating McClusky, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years. By honoring McClusky and all of the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as McClusky that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is worthy of our recognition.

McClusky possesses a proud past and a bright future.●

#### RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL VERNON SIMMONS

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to extend my best wishes to LTC Vernon Simmons who recently retired as deputy to the Director of Budget and Appropriations Liaison in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller. Vern's career as an Air Force officer defines service to one's country, and I know that Vern's dedication and leadership will be sorely missed by me and my staff, as well as his colleagues at the Air Force and the Department of Defense.

Lieutenant Colonel Simmons' career exemplifies hard work and commitment to excellence. In 1983, he graduated with honors from Northeastern University in Boston with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. It was there that he also completed his 4-year ROTC program, prior to entering active duty. He also earned a master of arts degree in economics from the University of Oklahoma in 1994.

Vern's first assignment was in Air Force Systems Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH. He was assigned to the program control office as a program control integrator on the F-15E aircraft. It was there that he